

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) An information recording apparatus for recording record information onto a recording medium having an optically recordable recording surface, comprising:

a laser light source;

a converting optical system for converting a laser beam emitted from said laser light source to a tabular ~~plate-like~~ laser beam whose cross section extends linearly and for emitting the laser beam such that a direction extending linearly is along the recording surface;

a one-dimensional spatial modulating device for performing one-dimensional spatial modulation in the direction extending linearly with respect to the tabular ~~plate-like~~ laser beam, on the basis of the record information;

a recording optical system for recording the record information onto the recording medium, by irradiating the recording surface with reference light based on the laser beam emitted from said laser light source while irradiating the recording surface with the spatial modulated tabular ~~plate-like~~ laser beam as signal light; and

a displacing device for displacing the recoding medium relative to said recording optical system such that irradiation positions of the signal light and the reference light are relatively displaced on the recording surface,

said recording optical system including:

a splitting optical system for splitting the laser beam emitted from said laser light source into the signal light and the reference light in a previous step of said converting optical system; and

a combining optical system for combining the one-dimensional spatial modulated signal light and the reference light to a same optical path, in a subsequent step of said one-dimensional spatial modulating device.

13. (currently amended) The information recording apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said splitting optical system splits the reference light such that the optical path of the reference light and the tabular ~~plate-like~~ laser beam are located side-by-side as viewed from the recording surface.

14. (previously presented) The information recording apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said recording optical system further comprises a splitting optical system for splitting the laser beam emitted from said laser light source into the signal light and the reference light in a previous step of said converting optical system, and

the one-dimensional spatial modulated signal light and the reference light are combined to a same optical path and irradiated to the recording surface.

15. (currently amended) The information recording apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said splitting optical system splits the reference light such that the optical path of the reference light and the tabular ~~plate-like~~ laser beam are located side-by-side as viewed from the recording surface.

16. (previously presented) The information recording apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the reference light is emitted from said laser light source, together with the signal light, and irradiated to the recording surface through said converting optical system, said one-dimensional spatial modulating device, and said recording optical system.

17. (currently amended) The information recording apparatus according to claim 12, wherein an axis in a longitudinal direction of said one-dimensional spatial modulating device is crossed with radial direction of the disc-shaped recording medium~~a disc radial direction~~.

18. (new) The information recording apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said combining optical system combines the signal light and the reference light to a same optical path, by multiplexing the signal light and the reference light.

19. (new) The information recording apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said recording optical system records the record information onto the recording medium such that an axial direction of a Fourier image is shifted from a radial direction of the disc-shaped recording medium.

20. (new) The information recording apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said converting optical system emits the laser beam such that a flat surface of the tabular laser beam is parallel to the recording surface.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figures 1, 8 and 9. These sheets, which include Figures 1, 8 and 9, replace the original sheets including Figures 1, 8 and 9. The Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by the amendment of the figures.